



Handwritten initials and date: 1/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1764
Examiner : T. Dang
Serial No. : 09/589,588
Filed : June 8, 2000
Inventors : Akira Kitamura
 : Ryoji Ichioka
 : Shinobu Yamakawa
Title : METHOD FOR CONVERTING
 : AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS



22469

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: 1197-00

Dated: November 2, 2000

RECEIVED
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

AMENDMENT AND ARGUMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated May 4, 2001, Applicants amend as follows:

Marked-Up Version of the Specification

Kindly enter the following changes:

Paragraph bridging Pages 1 and 2:

To meet the market needs of high-octane fuel, benzene and alkyl-aromatic hydrocarbons such as toluene and xylene having a high octane value have heretofore been much in gasoline as important gasoline bases, and their concentration in gasoline is high. In general, gasoline is produced in an oil refining process including catalytic reforming and cracking steps, in which the distillates fractionated in each step contain benzene. In the case where benzene is removed from gasoline so as to meet the environmental requirements mentioned above, a relatively large amount of benzene shall be extracted out of gasoline, and effective use of benzene is an emergent problem in the art. For utilizing it, known is a technique of mixing benzene with C9+ aromatic hydrocarbons to give yield toluene and xylene through transalkylation. At present, it is said that toluene and xylene have no problematic influence on human health, ~~distike~~ unlike benzene. In addition, since toluene